

MAR.
9

THE PALMS RE-OPENING

Invite-only
Friends & Family
First responders
University &
city officials
Select regulars

MARCH 10

Never Forget Fest @ 12 p.m.
14 Acts
No cover, \$5 donations
encouraged

TAYLOR GONNEMAN | NW MISSOURIAN



RACHEL ADAMSON
Assistant News Editor | @racheladansonxi

The Palms Bar and Grill will reopen the weekend of March 9 with a Never Forget Fest.

The Palms has been closed since Jan. 7 after Alex Catterson, 21, wrecked his truck into the front of the building, fatally injuring Northwest sophomore Morgan McCoy.

Bar owner Erik Schreiber decided to reopen with a Never Forget Fest to serve as an uplifting living memorial for friends and family lost along the way. Schreiber said he plans on making it an annual event.

"We struggled with how we were going to reopen and how we were going to do this," Schreiber said. "This is a sensitive thing for everybody... We want to make it a big positive day for everybody and get the bar back where it should be."

March 9 is likely going to be a private invite-only event for friends, family, select regulars, first responders, city officials and university officials. Starting at

noon March 10, there will be 14 bands and DJs throughout the day.

There will be no cover charge for this event. However, a \$5 donation is recommended.

"We want people to remember the positive of it," Schreiber said. "We would rather (students) have a memory of this place coming back to life because of the support of everybody around; having a positive memory from that instead of something that left a black mark on their college career forever."

Northwest sophomore Kelsi Ransom said Schreiber has worked hard to unite the Maryville community. She said she is looking forward to The Palms reopening.

"Since the accident, seeing The Palms has been painful," Ransom said. "The Never Forget Fest will allow us to remember those we have lost, in a happy way. I will be attending the event in remembrance of Morgan (McCoy). She would want everyone to be there. What better way to celebrate her life, than with our amazing community in a place she enjoyed."

Schreiber said the reopening of The Palms provides an opportunity for Maryville to be proactive in keeping students safe when it comes to alcohol use, instead of being reactive.

"Uber and Lyft have been around for years; they could have been in Maryville years ago," Schreiber said. "It took this event to push that forward. I'm a big fan of being proactive versus being reactive."

In an effort to be proactive, Schreiber announced on The Palms Twitter that he will be partnering with the Blue Cup Initiative starting March 10. The Blue Cup Initiative allows designated drivers into bars without a cover charge and free fountain drinks.

Northwest junior Sam Farmer is a bouncer at The Palms. Farmer said he is glad to see The Palms is reopening because it will be special to see the bar bounce back to life.

SEE PALMS | A5

Maryville officials continue to work on improving the town's water quality

SAMANTHA COLLISON
Chief Reporter | @SammieCollison

Chemical and mechanical treatments of Maryville's water source have worked to improve the taste and smell of campus water.

Due to an abnormally warm winter, Maryville's primary water source experienced a large algae bloom which caused an unpleasant taste and smell in the drinking water. Efforts to correct this problem began in January, the effects of which are beginning to show.

"Missouri Department of Natural Resources has allowed us over the last few weeks to treat our clear well like a 'mini-lake,' and this has improved the taste/smell of water," City Manager Greg McDanel said.

Maryville contracted PeopleService Inc. to manage Maryville's

water quality. Although the city's water now meets minimum drinking standards, PeopleService manager Steve Guthrie said the taste and smell improvements are due to the colder weather and the chemical treatments taking effect.

"We are dealing with a large body of water, and the normal practice has been to switch intakes and increase our oxidation chemicals," Guthrie said. "This year this was not as effective, so we are exploring using mechanical means to combat the problem and to aid our chemical treatment."

Installing granulated actuator carbon filters would be the most effective water treatment. However, the filters would cost around \$3 million, McDanel said. For now, the city is working with the Department of Natural Resources to im-

prove the chemical treatment.

Guthrie said the taste and smell of the water will continue to improve in the next few weeks. Because the treatment is for taste purposes and not a matter of safety, there is no specific date for when the treatments will stop or be considered fully in effect. It is an ongoing process.

City council considered several options to decrease the likelihood of another algae bloom. The decision has not officially been made, but a quote for SolarBees was received. SolarBees is a mechanical solution and would cost approximately \$195,000. If purchased, they would be installed this spring or summer.

SEE WATER | A5



MADI NOLTE | PHOTO ILLUSTRATION
Maryville officials have hired professionals to help combat water quality issues that have caused a foul taste and smell in city water.

Campus renovations underway

ABBEY HUGO
Chief Reporter | @TheMissourian

The Northwest Missouri State Board of Regents recently approved a string of renovations across campus and a contract to move forward with the Franken Hall remodeling.

These renovations included new windows for Colden Hall, a new electrical system in the Olive DeLuce Fine Arts Building and a structural upgrade to the Hudson Perrin restrooms. Many of these projects are simply overdue, and are being done in hopes of keeping all campus at the highest possible level of quality.

Vice President of Finance Stacy Carrick brought the proposals to the board. According to Board Chair Patrick Harr and Vice President of Student Affairs Matt Baker, this series of restorations is only part of a continual process of campus betterment and sustainment.

"We've done a deep dive to try to understand demand, student amenities and try to do all those things," Baker said.

The Fine Arts Building power distribution system has not been replaced since 1965, when the building was first built. Subsequently, the system has been labeled obsolete.

According to a news release



Northwest Board of Regents recently approved expansive campus renovations in a variety of buildings, including a complete renovation of Franken Hall one year after its closing.

published by the university, the upgrade will replace the entire electrical system, including all electrical panels, transformers, switchgear and distribution lines. The electrical capacity will increase as well.

"It's an upgrade (needed) just because of all the changes in electrical demand and so on with the different things that are in the building," Harr said.

The new electrical system

will not only enhance the facility's capabilities but also improve safety because everything will be grounded properly, Harr said.

Approximately 350 windows will be replaced at Colden Hall.

The windows were last replaced in the mid-1990s, and the average lifetime for those windows is 10 to 15 years.

The seals have begun to fail, allowing heat and cool air to seep in and out of the building. To combat this issue, the windows will be replaced by energy-efficient windows.

Both the replacement of Colden's windows and the Fine Arts Building's electrical system will be financed by state deferred funds.

Twenty-eight of the Hudson Perrin restrooms will be undergoing structural updates. Due to improper sealing during their construction, there has been leaking occurring below the showers. The substructure will be replaced to ensure that the shower sealant is watertight.

The Franken Hall improvement plan, approved back in December, can move forward now that the University has officially selected Lee Grover Construction Company for the project.

The project will include all new carpet, blinds, electronics and mobile furniture for the dorm rooms. Two private bathrooms and additional lounge space will be added to each floor. The lighting and piping systems will both be updated.

SEE RENOVATIONS | A5

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Faculty member named as a Missourian you should know

ABBEY HUGO
Chief Reporter | @TheMissourian

Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Juanita Simmons was featured on Ingram's 2018 "50 Missourians You Should Know."

The list is comprised of entrepreneurs, health care professionals, farmers, clergymen, lawyers, business leaders and the like. The individuals are men and women whom Ingram's Magazine deems remarkable and believes showcase Missourian values of hard work, self-reliance, character, integrity, commitment, sacrifice and determination, as explained by Ingram's description of the list.

Simmons said she was honored and humbled by being featured on the list. However, what she truly valued most was the positive acknowledgments, cards and congratulations she received from her colleagues.

Junior Lauren King, Simmons' student assistant, described Simmons as "one of the most amazing and progressive people" she has ever met and couldn't adequately convey just how fitting it was that Simmons be featured on "50 Missourians You Should Know."

"Dr. Simmons is the definition of a role model. She is a great role model because you can see she rose from a disadvantaged life-

style when she was younger, and you can see from that point she kept on building," King said. "She kept improving herself and getting to the top, solving problems and doing what she loves."

Ingram's profile of Simmons referenced her childhood growing up in Wichita Falls, Texas while segregation was still prevalent.

That experience immensely influenced Simmons' character, outlook and path in life.

"It caused me to be very conscious of social issues. I am very compassionate and sensitive to oppression by way of gender, language or nationality," Simmons said. "I think that it caused me to understand the other side of oppression, to understand that oppression is an area that becomes the responsibility of everyone."

Simmons has earned a Ph.D. and master's degree in educational administration from the University of Texas-Austin.

She worked 20 years as a high school teacher and administrator before going on to teach educational leadership and policy analysis at the University of Missouri-Columbia and eventually coming to Northwest in 2016.

"From the beginning, I have said, 'Teaching is my journey, not my job,'" Simmons said. "You can come into the field of education or social service with the cynical per-



Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Juanita Simmons was recently named one of the fifty top Missourians to know by Ingram's Magazine.

spective of 'Oh yeah, this is a job, I'll do it,' or you can look at it as a full responsibility for trying to make a difference. That is the approach I have taken."

Simmons was working part-time at the University of Missouri-Columbia during the racial conflict of 2015.

"I think that it was an experience (that forced) everyone involved and across the country to

understand the importance of hearing everyone," Simmons said. "I think that during this period, many Americans were still in that stupor of maybe if you ignore problems and say nothing, maybe it'll go away... Many times, we are afraid of conflict, and we create more conflict by thinking we can avoid it."

Simmons has channeled her personal experiences and passion

for equity into her life's work.

"She (Simmons) triumphed in so many ways. She grew up with all the changes in society regarding race and segregation," King said. "She has still been able to take that in and create knowledge and awareness, and put it back into the world with something greater."

**SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM**

Nodaway County Commissioners finalizes the 2018 budget

MATTHEW BERRY
Chief Reporter | @TheMatthewBerry

The Nodaway County Commissioners approved the 2018 county budget Jan. 26.

The budget was passed by the Nodaway County Commissioners at \$10 million. Commissioner Bill Walker said the budget is approximately the same as it was for 2017.

According to Nodaway News Leader, the two most notable changes are a \$750,000 increase in general revenue spending, ris-

ing from \$4.19 million to \$4.974 million.

The funds allocated for roads and bridges saw a \$1.1 million decrease. This is due to no federal bridges planned to be constructed.

Walker also pointed out that there is one less bridge being built this year.

"We built six bridges last year, we want to build five bridges this year," Walker said.

Josh McKim from the Nodaway County Economic Development said the infrastructure is in-

credibly vital for growth in Nodaway County.

"Economic development cannot happen without the infrastructure in place," McKim said.

McKim said in order for agriculture products to come to market, there needs to be sufficient roads, bridges and other infrastructure to make it happen.

"(Infrastructure) is tremendously vital. We are an ag (agriculture) community. Ag is the third largest economic developer in our county," McKim said.

The money in the budget is put in the community's economy, which is greatly beneficial for growth, McKim said.

"From an economic development standpoint, the budget is fairly large, and a substantial amount of that is reinvested into our county through roads and bridges and upgrades," McKim said.

Passing the budget also allows McKim's organization to continue to operate, as they receive approximately \$40,000 from the county.

"In passing the budget, it al-

lows to continue doing economic development in Nodaway County," McKim said. "From an operational standpoint, it's vital from our (ability) to continue operation as an economic development organization that's countywide."

McKim finds the commissioners do a good job in passing the budget, despite the budget appearing to be close to the same from 2017.

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NWMISSOURINEWS.COM**



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

"Crash" Screening and Discussion

WEDNESDAY, February 7, 2018 | 7:00 p.m.

J.W. Jones Student Union, Boardroom

"Crash" looks at the world through various racial and socioeconomic experiences. Join the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to watch the film and engage in a discussion after the movie.

Soul Food Dinner

SATURDAY, February 10, 2018 | 6:00 pm

J.W. Jones Student Union, Ballroom

Join the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for an evening of gathering and great food. The annual Soul Food Dinner is a time for sharing stories and learning more about the history of the food eaten by many African American families. In conjunction with the them for Northwest's Black History Month, "Blacks in the Military," a member of the Tuskegee Airmen will be the keynote speaker for this event, which also will feature Northwest's gospel choir.

"Black Panther" Screening and Discussion

FRIDAY, February 16, 2018 | 7:00 pm

J.W. Jones Student Union, Boardroom

"Black Panther" follows T'Challa who, after the events of "Captain America: Civil War," returns home to the isolated, technologically advanced African nation of Wakanda to take his place as King. Join the Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to watch the film and engage in a discussion after the movie.

"Jungle Fever" Screening and Discussion

WEDNESDAY, February 21, 2018 | 7:00 pm

J.W. Jones Student Union, Boardroom

"Jungle Fever" is a Spike Lee-directed feature that examines the issues of interracial dating in the early 1990s and cultural identity development within a strong family system. Students are invited to watch the movie and participate in a discussion about interracial dating afterward.

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"Dear World" exposes the stories behind the Northwest community

SARAH VON SEGGERN
A&E Reporter | @TheMissourian

Behind every smile, every gesture and every word there is a story to be told, and "Dear World" captured those stories with black markers, an open mind and a quick click of a camera.

Student Activities Council (SAC) hosted "Dear World," an interactive portrait and storytelling project, Feb. 1 in the Student Union Ballroom as part of its SAC Speaks series. Throughout the night, students could attend two sections. At 5 p.m., there was a workshop for those who had signed up, followed by a live storytelling presentation and slideshow of everyone's portraits at 7 p.m.

Junior elementary and special education major and SAC's Director of Lecture T.J. Johnson had high hopes for "Dear World" with more than 100 people signed up to participate in the event.

"(This is) really a community building opportunity," T.J. Johnson said. "I want people to be able to express themselves and share stories that maybe no one else really knows... so I think it's really important to build that family connection that Northwest has."

"Dear World" gave many students and faculty the opportunity T.J. Johnson was looking to provide.

With the easy-going atmosphere created through the unique storytelling process, various conversations flowed throughout the workshop as smiles illuminated people's faces and laughter filled the air. Many students were even brought to tears after sharing their stories with those who were willing to listen.

Sophomore psychology ma-

jor Dominique Pearson was one of many students who shared their story after hearing about "Dear World" through an email invite.

"It was kind of emotional," Pearson said. "When I started telling my story, I kind of cried a little, but then it helped me open up a little bit more to just tell my story."

In a multitude of words, everyone's stories were marked onto their skin and embedded in their mind.

On Pearson's arms the words, "That would never look good" stood out declaring the insecurities she had turned into her story.

The storyteller and program lead for "Dear World" Lynetria "Fresh" Johnson helped people to find their stories and learn more about themselves along with others.

"I like the idea of operating in a space of knowing that it's the things that we have been through that are also maybe the best way for us to connect to each other," Fresh said. "I like that it takes away so many of the things that we use to divide us, and it's just based on our experience. It takes away professions, colors, education levels, where we're from. I like that it's just I am who I am based on my story."

Sophomore computer science major Saroj Paudel had his defining story within one moment that many could relate to. With the words, "He called me 'Dada' and hugged me" written on his forearms, he showed his strong familial ties and connections back home.

As one of the four student presenters, he was able to share his story.

**SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM**



dear world

Asma Hassam participated in the award-winning, interactive event "Dear World." The event helped Northwest students and faculty to tell their stories in a unique way Thursday, Feb. 1.

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People need to look up at the stars



Anthony Procopio Ross
Opinion Columnist
@AnthonyProcRoss

the first footprints to have ever grace the moon.

Maybe his footsteps were not as expansive as the 2,500 km long crater found on the far side of the moon, but they acted as a symbol for the capacity of human achievement.

Humans, and the pre-human equivalents, have inhabited the earth for as long as any of us can remember and we have learned to adapt and grow with our surroundings.

With our ingenuity and ever-growing minds, we have achieved crafting mountains out of molehills. There is no doubt in my mind that we have conquered this earth,

On July 20, 1969, almost seven years after humankind made it to space, Neil Armstrong stomped

reigning in at the very top as the dominant species, but at what cost, and to what ends? What can we do next, if the next obstacle is too high to hurdle?

Can we pull any wisdom out of the phrase, "Do not bite the hand that feeds you," as we continue to bore holes into the earth to extract materials that won't be available again for millions of years?

This isn't to say that our society could do without, but it is healthy to recognize our faults as a growing species, literally.

NASA's budget for 2018 fiscal year comes in at \$19.1 billion, and

in an outline describing how Congress wants that money spent, "Increased cooperation with industry through the use of public-private partnerships, focuses on the nation's efforts on deep space exploration rather than Earth-centric research."

The corporate figurehead, Elon Musk, the genius behind Tesla and SpaceX, is hard at work at not just slowing down the rate at which we spend valuable earth resources, but is furthering humanity's capacity to physically explore the universe beyond our moon.

He's playing the long-term

game, leaving a legacy for himself and hopefully a chance for humanity to survive what's headed for us next. We need to recognize the importance in what he's doing and start thinking ahead.

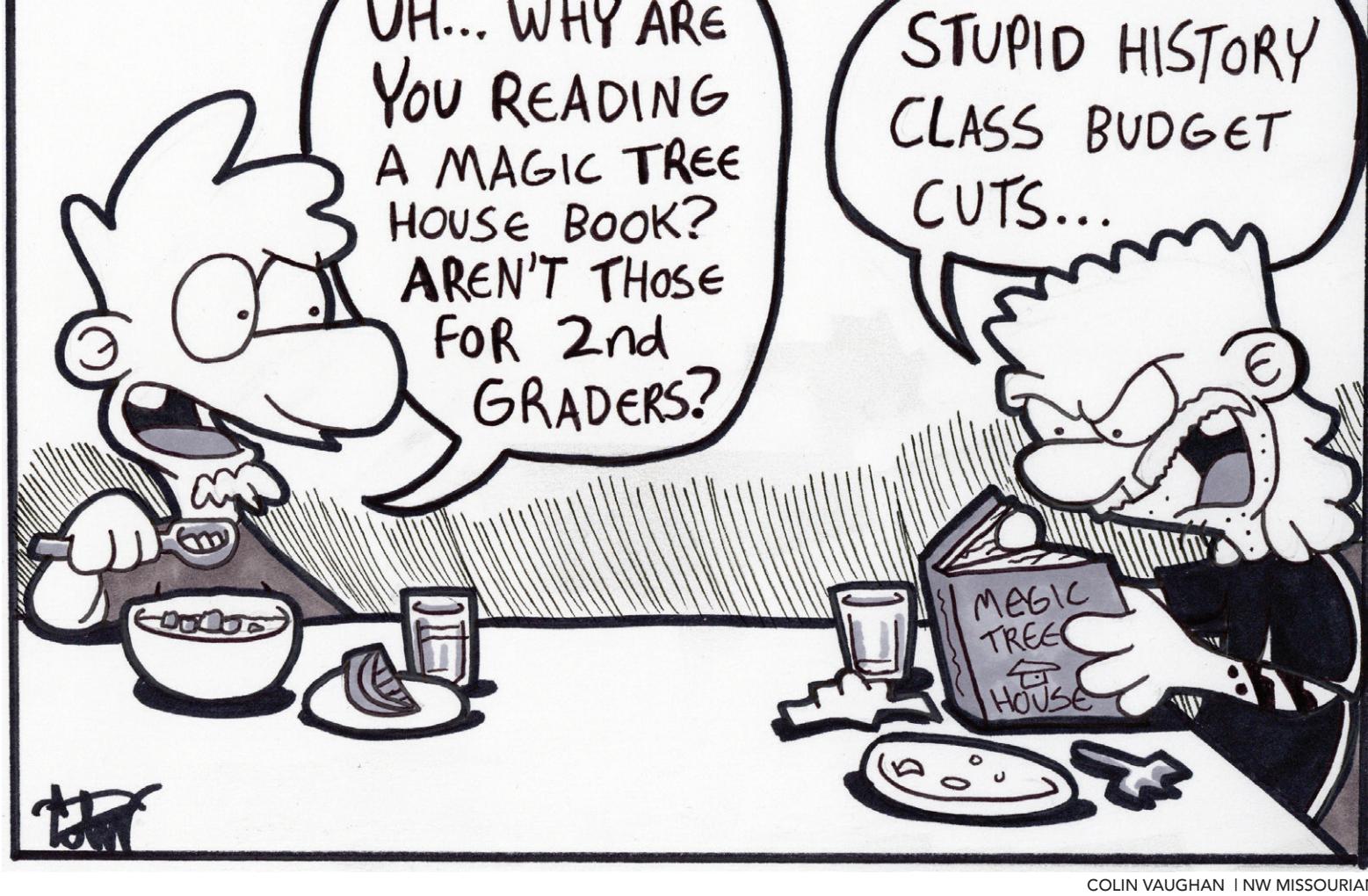
Perhaps destruction isn't just around the corner, but time, in terms of a human life, is less than a blink of the eye to the universe. Doing what we can now, with what we have, while we have it, is absolutely imperative and is what we should be doing, anyways.

In the words of Carl Sagan, "Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known."

Words may not be sticks or stones, but they can hurt



Keji Akinmoladun
Opinion Columnist
@TheMissourian



COLIN VAUGHN | NW MISSOURIAN

OUR VIEW:

Higher education cannot take Greitens' cuts

It seems college students aren't catching any breaks from Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens as he proposes another major cut in funding to higher education.

With state funding down to less than 30 percent forcing more budget cuts to Northwest, it seems the college experience is only becoming even more unobtainable.

This isn't the first higher education cut proposed by Greitens. In June 2017, the governor proposed a funding cut from universities and colleges to redistribute \$48 million to fund elementary, middle and high schools, according to the Associated Press.

While primary and secondary education is important, these budgets will only further the gap of students who leave high school without attendance of university or college.

Degree programs offered at colleges and universities administer highly educated individuals, who are specifically qualified for career-based initiatives that, in return, become some of the building blocks of a stable and prosperous economy.

Public education is the foundation of college education, but sacrificing the necessities of universities and colleges will lead to a crippling deficiency in quality and resources amongst the institutions.

The Missouri education system as we know it will drastically change, as more students will choose falling into entry level workforce instead of pursuing degree programs due simply to the inability to afford the increased tuition fees.

This will be a paralyzing blow to the state's economic status,

creating a seemingly endless cycle of funding cuts and redistributing in efforts to save a failing economy, which has seldom highly skilled individuals to correct the mistakes.

Missouri universities are left powerless as state funding continuously dwindles, relying heavily on donations and tuition cost, while still providing the state with immense economic benefits.

Northwest's continued successes in affordability, retention rate, degree completion and post-graduation job placement are proof that as public institutions, Missouri universities are keeping their end of the bargain.

Yet keeping these universities running smoothly is more reliant on money from students' and parents' pockets instead of its benefactors.

Instead of removing money

from public universities and colleges budgets, an increase in funding is needed. In nearly 30 years, Northwest has seen state funding drop by more than 40 percent.

Yes, the redistribution of funds to public education and state foster programs are areas well-deserving of increased funding, but the conditions and obligations Greitens is proposing are steep.

The college experience isn't just factual and educational learning. It is developing life lessons, strengthening young adult independence and producing well-rounded young leaders who are prepared for anything.

It is the state's responsibility to contribute to enabling the creation of our state and our countries' leaders by providing sufficient support to universities and colleges they claim as 'public.'

'Nigga' derives from the term 'nigger.' Nigger, defined by Merriam Webster, is used as an insulting and contemptuous term for a black or dark-skinned person. This term is used to degrade people of African descent. African Americans often use "Nigga" in everyday speech and rap music. Sadly, not only African Americans use this term. It is often used by Hispanics and Caucasians.

I give people who are not African American, who say the 'n' word, the side eye. What once was a conversation of laughing and joking turns into a serious one. 'It's just a word,' 'I'm not racist' or 'I didn't mean it like that.' These are some of the responses that not only I, but other African Americans get when we are defending ourselves. It's not just a word. It has a very profound meaning and goes back in history. Even if it was just a word, words are weapons. Words can hurt people.

I want to point out that I feel as if no one should say the 'n' word, but if it is said, African Americans should use it only. When people state they are not racist, that is not the point. It would be worse if they were racist, but they are not African American so they shouldn't say it at all. I feel as if the main problem is that we have opened that door for people who are not African American, to say the 'n' word. We say it around non-African Americans and sometimes we even call them it. So I assume they think it is OK.

'I didn't mean it like that.' It doesn't matter how you meant it, don't say it ever again. I will never understand how a non-African American can be so comfortable to use that word freely. Maybe because it is used so much in rap music, or again, said all the time around them, that they feel as if they can say it. Regardless, it will never be OK. Do not call them nigga. Do not call them over there nigga. Do not call your friends nigga. Do not call me nigga.

It may seem selfish and unfair that African Americans and Blacks should be the only people who use the 'n' word, but it should not have to be explained. I have had this argument many times why this word will not be tolerated.

**SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT
NWMISSOURINEWS.COM**

Universities need to learn from the Larry Nassar issue



CORIE HERTZOG
Assistant A&E Editor
@CoffeeGilmore7

appears the president of Michigan State knew about Nassar's disturbing acts.

According to Detroit News, at least 14 people, including university president Dr. Lou Anna K. Simon, knew about Nassar's sexual deviancy. All of these individuals had been informed 20 years before his trial. Why was he not investigated under Title IX immediately like so many universities do with any other sexual assault allegations? Is it because of his reputation? After all, he was the physical therapist for the Olympic gymnasts, including the Fierce Five. Perhaps it was because Simone Biles, a member of the Fierce

Five, also came forward about being assaulted by Nassar that the university finally fired him.

Normally, I say innocent until proven guilty. However, multiple women accused Nassar for the same crime, and even more have broken their silence since his arrest. There was reason to believe he was abusing his power and position, and should have been investigated under Title IX immediately like so many universities do with any other sexual assault allegations? Is it because of his reputation? After all, he was the physical therapist for the Olympic gymnasts, including the Fierce Five. Many agree, and an overwhelm-

ing amount of students, the public and politicians have been clamoring for the firing of Dr. Simon.

In an interview with the New York Times, state Senator Curtis Hertel Jr., whose districts include Michigan State, has called for Dr. Simon's removal from her current position.

"I know that they deal with thousands of Title IX cases a year, but when it's a physician, I think that's different," Hertel said.

**SEE FULL STORY ONLINE AT
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www.nwmmissourinews.com
northwestmissourian@gmail.com

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We publish letters from readers for free. All letters become the property of the Northwest Missourian, which reserves the right to edit them. Letters should include your name, address and telephone number. Letters should be between 150 and 300 words and sent to m.cripe@missourian@gmail.com.



The Nodaway County Senior Services Fund Tax Board recently allocated money to the Nodaway County Senior Center. The money received will help ensure its doors remain open in the near future.

Tax money will help senior center succeed

KATIE STEVENSON
News Editor | @KatieSStevenson

The Nodaway County Senior Center and other organizations received tax money from the Nodaway County Senior Services Fund Tax Board.

The Board met Jan. 20 to divide the senior citizen tax among the Nodaway County organizations. Nodaway County Senior Services Fund Tax Board Chairman Richard Logan said this allocation of tax money is a common occurrence.

"We meet every January and allocate funds to various organizations," Logan said. "So, this is

nothing new; we meet once every year."

One of the biggest groups to receive money in the 2018 tax year was the Nodaway County Senior Center. Director of the Nodaway County Senior Center administrator Amie Firavich said the \$90,000 dollars received was much needed to help combat the center's lost funding.

"Because we lost our federal and state funding this year, starting in July, for this operating year, it will help relieve some of the pressure from that funding loss," Firavich said.

Before receiving the tax money, Firavich said the center had to

make a number of changes to keep their doors open to the public.

"We started an angel fund, and that angel fund helps cover anyone who is not able to pay the five dollars per meal," Firavich said. "It used to be just a suggested contribution if you were over the age of sixty, and then when we lost our funding, we actually had to charge five dollars a meal."

The angel fund is meant to help those who cannot pay the five dollars still be able to get a meal.

"So, any patron that qualifies for the program that could not afford five dollars a meal then the angel program goes to help that," Firavich said. "We have also cut

down on staff, and we have had to cut down on our raw food cost."

Firavich said these changes have had a number of effects on the center, but their main goal is to do whatever is needed to keep serving the elderly.

"Because we started charging five dollars per meal, our average person we deliver to and who come into the center dropped by about 40 individuals," Firavich said. "Then, you know, because we had to cut down on staff, there is now less staff to get the same amount of work done."

According to the National Council on Aging, over 25 million Americans, aged 60 and older,

are living at or below 250 percent of the federal poverty level. Also, according to NCOA, in 2015, 2.9 million households with a senior, aged 65 or older, experienced food insecurity in the United States.

Logan said the money given to the Nodaway County Senior Center and other organizations have one main goal: to help the elderly in Nodaway County and make sure everyone is cared for.

"We want to make sure that senior citizens can live a dignified life," Logan said. "We want to keep them in their homes as long as possible, rather than putting them in nursing homes."

RENOVATIONS CONTINUED FROM A1

Harr described the update as a major overhaul and a big-time change.

This is the first Franken update in approximately 11 years, in alignment with the updates to

Millikan and Dietrich earlier this year.

"We think it will help attract students to Northwest if they are thinking about it for their freshman year," Baker said. "We also hope students will want to stay on campus an additional year because it is a good space with lower cost than say Hudson Perrin."

Schreiber said he is keeping an antique look when remodeling the front of the building.

Northwest sophomore Katie Huffman said many were thinking The Palms would not reopen.

"They are doing everything to spin it to the most positive way they can, and I think that's great," Huffman said.

Schreiber said he has and will continue to do all he can to ensure the safety of each person in the

This series of renovations is only a small part of Northwest's master plan, which provides a long-term look at how the University plans to improve and maintain the campus to meet Northwest's ever-changing needs.

"If you look at the master plan, there is a lot of things on the horizon. We will take on projects as

bar. Schreiber is a retired police officer and takes the education of his staff seriously.

"I want to give a huge thanks to the support from everybody," Schreiber said. "I've gotten tons of calls, messages and all that good stuff; that's definitely how we keep our heads above water. Now that we have a date and we're looking at reopening, there's finally a rainbow at the end that we can look forward to."

PALMS CONTINUED FROM A1

"There are a lot of emotions that are still running high regarding this situation and that is to be expected," Farmer said. "This event is really going to be a special one. I think Maryville is going to see some energy that has not been around in a while."

The Palms is approaching its 80th anniversary. Because of this,

Schreiber said he is keeping an antique look when remodeling the front of the building.

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WATER CONTINUED FROM A5

"SolarBees will keep the lake from stratifying and also prevent a static water environment that taste and odor-causing algae need to

grow," Guthrie said. "They work via solar energy, powering a motor that pulls water from a given depth and spreads it across the top surface area of the lake."

Freshman Savana Mobley, a Millikan Hall resident, said the water quality has improved.

"Before the boil advisory, the water was decent enough to drink," Mobley said. "There was occasionally a different aftertaste of something like dirt. Right after the boil advisory was lifted, the water tasted the best it's ever been."

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HOROSCOPES



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

It can be difficult to focus with so many things running through your mind, Aries. Give it your best shot, especially at work where it counts the most.

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Focus on fun experiences that will pop up this week, Taurus. They will brighten your mood and make you more inclined to interact with the people you love.

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21

Gemini, someone you haven't seen in a while makes an appearance in your life. You don't know if you should be excited or just a tad cautious about what to expect.

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Someone at work or home cannot get an accurate read on how you are feeling, Cancer. This may lead to some communication issues. Be as open as possible to avoid confusion.

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, you are called on to be a leader this week, so make sure you do your homework on pertinent issues. This way you can make decisions with confidence.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, even when you think you know best, you may want to let others voice their opinions. You never know the value of another's perspective until you hear it.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Surround yourself with your closest friends and family members, Libra. These are support pillars you can lean on in tough times and the people to laugh alongside when things are good.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

The next few days provide opportunities to relax and have fun, Scorpio. With no pressing matters on the calendar, you can relinquish some responsibilities.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, getting your point across may seem like your primary goal, but you can let things simmer for a little bit. Others have things that they want to share as well.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

Capricorn, romantic notions are popping into your head lately, and they may only be spurred on by the Valentine's Day magic. A relationship gets to the next level.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, you can be the voice of reason if family life has gotten a bit chaotic. You may be called on to sort things out and put a plan in place.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, whether you are attached or not, feelings of love

DIVERSIONS

Paranormal Inactivity



COLIN VAUGHN | NW MISSOURIAN

PETS OF THE WEEK



Human: Courtney Bybee



Occupation

Living Stressball

**Age:** 2 months**Weight:** 300-350g**Fluff Factor:** 10/10**Likes:**

Snuggles

Mealworms

Midnight Jogs on Her Wheel

Dislikes:

Being awoken from a nap

Sonic the Hedgehog's Misrepresentation of Hedgehog Culture

Inflatable Furniture

**Life Quote:**

"Don't you dare wake me up without a treat in your hand."

CROSSWORD

By MetroCreative

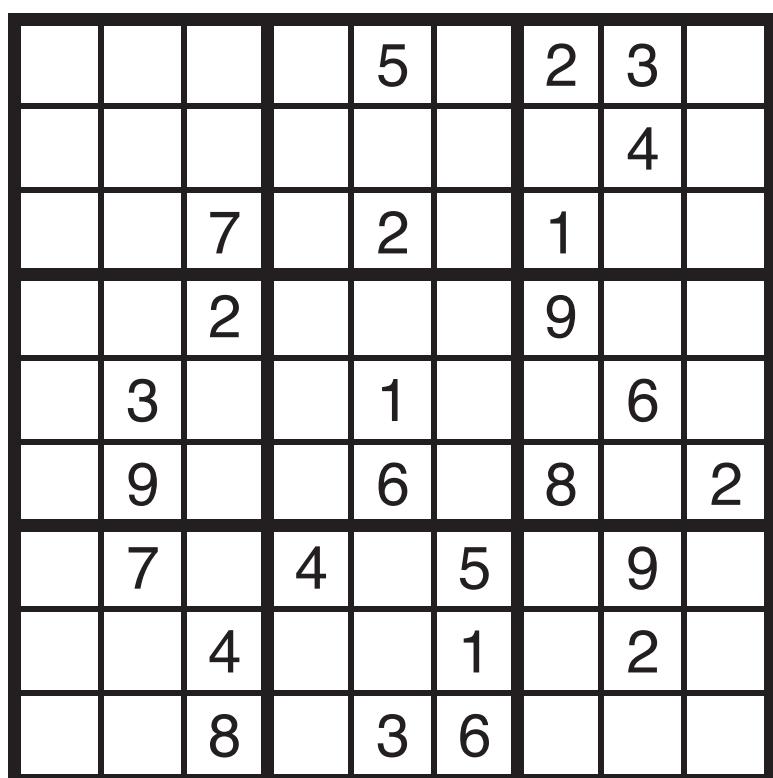
CLUES ACROSS

1	2	3	4			5	6	7	8	9	10				
11						12						13	14	15	
16						17			18						
19				20	21			22	23						24
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53		54							55						
56	57						58				59				
60							61	62							63
					64										65

1. Elaborate silk garment
5. Fleet
11. Egyptian deity
12. Hundredth anniversary
16. Chew the fat
17. Doctor of Medicine
18. Large, edible game fish
19. Revitalization
24. Personal computer
25. Unfettered
26. Clumsy persons
27. Japanese classical theater
28. Part of a ship
29. Rate of movement
30. How much
31. Image taken with a camera
33. Sharp mountain ridge
34. Czech capital
38. One who treats poorly
39. By right
40. Relating to odors
43. As soon as possible
44. Israeli Olympic swimmer
45. Scored perfectly
49. Financial ratio (abbr.)
50. Unpleasant emotion
51. Sign of the zodiac
53. Promotional material
54. Your parents' parents
56. Monetary unit
58. Farm state
59. One of Hollywood's Bridges brothers
60. Not the plaintiff
63. "Night Train" novelist
64. Martens valued for their fur
65. Discount

4. A way to grasp
5. Apex
6. British soldier
7. Manganese
8. Indicates position
9. Decompressions in scuba diving (abbr.)
10. Soon
13. Blood type
14. Clever reply
15. One who travels by luxurious boat
20. Once more
21. Rural delivery
22. Mexican dish
23. Nigerian City
27. Is not (Span.)
29. Italy's longest river
30. Grand ___, vintage
31. Monetary unit
32. The man
33. Basics

SUDOKU



CLUES DOWN

1. Bone in the lower back
2. Goddess of wisdom
3. Comedic honors

One acts offer memorable evening

JAMES CHRISTENSEN
A&E Reporter | @jameschris1701

The Ron Houston Center for Performing Arts Black Box theater was alive with laughter and entertainment Feb. 2 and 3.

The Northwest Lab Series presented two one-act plays, directed by two Northwest students with other Northwest students filling the various roles in the two shows.

The first one act was "The Real Problem," which was written by Bruce Kane and directed by Sierra Coleman, a junior majoring in speech and theater education. Coleman explained how the one act was a comedic take on Shakespearean heroines.

"Basically, four Shakespearean female characters meet at a pub and talk about the men in their lives, while the bartender, Hecate, sees their futures," Coleman said. "This play shows the comedic side of love for the main characters and how love changed their lives."

This play honored the traditions of early theater by having male cast members portray female characters. This was a common practice in England, when it was unheard of to have women performing on stage. Normally, young boys would play the roles of Juliet and Desdemona, due to their higher voice.

The use of a minimal stage setting leaves the interpretation of the play up to the audience members. The use of the black box shows the actors' skills, as it is up to them to portray the scene to the audience. While "The Real Problem" was a comedic take on Shakespeare, the other one act had a much more serious tone.

"The Unknown Part of the Ocean," written by Sheri Wilner, was directed by Hailey Vernon, a



MADI NOLTE | NW MISSOURIAN

"The Real Problem" cast members put on a dress rehearsal Wednesday, Jan. 31 in preparation for their "Spring Evening of One Acts" last Friday evening.

senior speech and theater education major. Vernon described the play as a strong emotional piece that shows the power of love.

"The Unknown Part of the Ocean" is about a little girl, Sophie, whose mother has cancer,"

Vernon said. "Because Sophie is so young, she doesn't quite understand the disease and how to cope with it.

As she tries to understand what's going on, she tells her mom a story with all sorts of magical sea

creatures, including an evil squid who captures her mother."

The message of love and emotional support was clear, as the young child struggle to understand her mother's cancer. Vernon wanted everyone to feel this message

after watching the show.

"I want my audience to leave this show knowing how much they should value their loved ones," Vernon said. "It melts my heart so much, and I wanted to make an audience feel the same way."

Your Bearcat wants you to love each other every day

MEKA WRIGHT
A&E Reporter | @itstheredhair_

With many students of varying nationalities and backgrounds joining in conversation and curiosity struck a chord throughout the room as the participants listened intently and asked various questions.

For anybody curious about different cultures, First Friday Culture Talks are the event to attend as it provides a diverse and safe environment for those who wish to share their experiences and opinions on a certain topic. Meetings are at 3 p.m. on the first Friday of each month, and are located on the first floor of the B.D. Owens Library in the International Involvement Center, room 108.

According to Erika Lees, SEVIS records clerk of the International Affairs Office, every meeting presents a different topic for the designated speakers to discuss.

"I would like people to understand different culture's viewpoints on issues," Lees said. "There are a lot more similarities than differences."

The student speakers help diversify the conversation, as they typically come from other countries or cultures, and often help lead the discussion by addressing issues they face in their culture.

As one of the speakers for the February meeting, sophomore psychology major Abha Niraula, who has been coming to these meetings since last semester, finds there's always more she can learn.

"Every time I come here, I always get to learn a lot more new ideas, new thoughts and learn about different cultures," Niraula said. "We talk about different things every single week. This week we're talking about civil unrest, civil rights movement and different countries, so it's always really interesting listening to people talk about their culture and getting to share my ideas with them. We bounce off each other."

While there is actually quite a high attendance rate averaging at about 20 people every meeting, according to Lees, more diverse community members attending would only improve the discussion.

"Americans don't really come to this that often because they

think that it's only for international students," Niraula said. "... I don't think we get as many people from Korea which I would really love to talk to some of them."

There's a few countries that I don't see people from. I would definitely love for everyone to join us though."

Along with sharing and bonding over experiences, a welcoming atmosphere is created for everybody interested, even those who have never gone before.

Even though junior mass media major Samuel Heavens had never been to any previous meetings, he still attended as one of the student speakers to talk about how the United Kingdom deals with civil rights and unrest.

"Despite only going to one, I

feel that these talks allow me to view my country's cultural developments and history critically," Heavens said.

Heavens said he loved the experience he gained from going and strongly encourages students to join so they can engage in various cultural exchanges.

The essence of these talks begins with culture and feeds off the natural want to learn and curiosity of others, with topics there as a way help to narrow the discussion. With a designated safe space where people are free to share their thoughts and opinions, First Friday Culture Talks are assured to be full of thought provoking questions and intriguing answers.

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TAYLOR LEGRONE | NW MISSOURIAN

Sydney Dungan, Alison Garrett and Alicia Gunderson enjoy a relaxing evening of painting at Sigma Society's Leisure Paint Night Thursday, Feb. 1 as part of Rush Week.

Rush week brings new faces

MEKA WRIGHT
A&E Reporter | @itstheredhair_

The comfortable calm of the Sigma Society rush week was soothing and therapeutic as the women welcomed their new members Thursday, with a bonding night of canvas painting and plenty of fun.

Sigma Society is an all female service group that focuses on local service opportunities and emphasize the development of positivity through the Northwest campus. The organization held its rush week last week with a variety of service based experiences for new members as well as veterans of the organization. And if it's one thing the women of Sigma Society

know, it's the power of social service, support and the creation of a family bond that they each hold dear.

Sigma Society Recruitment Chair and veteran of the organization Anna Goeman spent the week enjoying the multitude of events and watching the many prospective members fall effortlessly into place with the organization.

"Rush week is open to anyone on campus," Goeman said. "It's not very intense and pretty calm... it's for girls to learn about Sigma Society and our expectations once you've joined."

While Sigma Society has an active rush week, it's not the only way to be involved or even join the organization. Instead, the week

is meant to be a bonding tool for women involved, as well as women who are interested in joining. Through sisterhood sessions, the women have strengthened their inner unity by creating a space for each woman to feel welcomed.

"I think it's good to bring the actives and the new girls together... you have an idea of what kind of people are in the organization, and if you want to join and be motivated to help the community with each other," Goeman said.

Sigma Society hosts rush weeks during the fall and spring semesters.

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MADI NOLTE | NW MISSOURIAN

Donna Yanks, a former Kawasaki security supervisor, is well-known by students and faculty for her trademark smile and uplifting personality.

DONNA'S WORLD

Northwest cashier lifts spirits while swiping Bearcat cards

MICHAEL CRIPE
A&E Editor | @MikeCripe

For many, the smell, taste and presentation of cafeteria food can be divisive to say the least, but thanks to a cashier at the Student Union, no one comes or goes without a smile on their face.

Some who attend other schools think about processed, fat-filled foods. Others think about the daily rotating options and variety of food genres. Only students who dine in the J.W. Jones Student Union have the pleasure of meeting Donna Yanks on their way in to eat though.

Yanks has been an employee at Northwest for nine years, but she has lived in Maryville for 30 years, so knowing her by her name, face or at least her never-fading smile is a given for on-campus students.

With hundreds of names and faces to learn, it would come as no surprise to hear Yanks is unable to remember every single person who stops by for a meal. Of course, Yanks is different and full of shocking characteristics and has nothing short of one of the biggest hearts to touch the University.

Big or small, introverted or extroverted, Yanks probably knows everyone. Names, occupations, social life; the list goes on. Yanks says a gifted memory is not to blame for her talent of recollection.

"It's the kids, I just love the kids," Yanks said. "I'm like their mother or their grandmother. I'll kid with them or belittle them; they love it. That's it; it is all about the kids."

Stepping away from the cash register at the lower Union entrance with Yanks yields all kinds of interesting responses. Despite primarily remaining at the same spot during most of her time at Northwest, Yanks manages to know everyone no matter where she goes. It seems her biggest problem is finding time to say hello to every individual who walks

by. Even still, Yanks finds a way.

"Yes, there are hundreds of them, and that's exactly why I like it," Yanks said. "They'll talk to me about their exams, how school is going or what their work life is like. I have some kids who will stop by just about every morning."

Michael Mickelson, a senior international business major, is one of these people who often visits Yanks. He says her caring na-

ture speaks for itself, and never goes unnoticed.

"In a place where most workers barely speak to customers and lack enthusiasm, Donna has always shown a level of care and energy," Mickelson said. "With her own quirks, she betters the moods of those around her."

One of Yanks' trademark ways to interact with students is how she chooses to celebrate 'hump day.' 'Hump day' is the toughest day of a long week for many, but Yanks aims to alleviate the stress that comes along with the dreaded day.

"Whether it is putting up a small sign of a camel on Wednesdays asking, 'What day is it' or striking up brief conversations. (Her passion for caring) is a near daily routine for her. (She affects) dozens if not hundreds of students

during the week and possibly thousands of students from over the years."

Mickelson has been observant of Yanks' ability to spread genuine generosity. He says kindness like hers is not easy to find, especially behind a cash register for a dining hall. Mickelson says Yanks is remarkable, and she will be a component of Northwest he will miss dearly.

the names of dozens of students, the kids want Yanks to know they care just as much about her as she does them.

Yanks has dealt with her fair share of darker times, including losing family members throughout the years. She says the ones who get her through all of it are friends, family and her job. Yanks is a kick of positivity for so many as they have their lunch break from classes. What many may not realize though, is the campus kindness of this level goes both ways.

Campus would not be the same without Yanks and she does adore the company of the Northwest students. The only thing she says she really wishes was better in the winter time is the temperature at the cash registers.

"(After they changed the) cafeteria to all you can eat, they moved us out here closer to the doors," Yanks said. "Now we freeze to death out here. I don't know who designed it that way. I kept telling them to get me a heating pad for my feet. They said 'does anyone make those?' and I said 'I don't know, but you find me one.'"

Even with the recently chilling cold temperatures hitting Maryville recently, Yanks still comes to work everyday at 11 a.m. to make sure she gets to see every face that stops by for food.

Despite only standing in one place for most of her time on the job, Yanks touches the lives of hundreds. She doesn't need to give them anything, offer assistance or even help them with school work though. Yanks keeps students coming back with a simple swipe of their Bearcat cards and a smile. It's her passion, and nothing is going to stop her now after nine years of service.

Most Bearcats agree, Yanks is the bright spot of the Union, and without her, 'hump day' and Northwest as a whole just wouldn't seem as positive.

“(Her passion for caring) is a near daily routine for her. (She affects) dozens if not hundreds of students during the week and thousands of students from over the years.”

-Michael Mickelson

“She adds a human element to the environment that does not feel artificial or forced,” Mickelson said. “Plain and simple, I choose to believe that she is caring as she is by nature. Having met her off campus once, I will attest that it is not something just as simple as organizational policies for expecting a set behavior from its staff.”

Mickelson is not alone in his feelings either. Stopping and asking anyone in the Union if they know who ‘Donna’ is and nine times out of 10 they will characterize her as the sweet, nice and/or caring cashier from downstairs.

However, the students of Northwest could not go on without offering Yanks gifts to show their gratitude. Whether it be by singing songs, giving her jars of candy or even just valentines signed with

Men cruise during home stretch

JUSTIN QUICK
Chief Reporter | @Jquick88

Following a dominating homestand, the Northwest men's basketball team will attempt to break the trend of previous road outings in its two road games Feb. 7 and 10.

During their last two road stretches, the Bearcats have lost the opening game and rebounded to win the next game. This resulted in a 4-2 record before their three-game homestand.

With three straight home wins against Missouri Western, Lincoln and Lindenwood University, all by 20 or more points, the Bearcats seemed to find their groove down the stretch. With under a month to go in the regular season, Northwest finds themselves in a battle for the conference title with Washburn (17-5, 11-2).

In the past three seasons, the Bearcats games with Washburn have ended in similar fashion. All three of the previous games ended in a six-point deficit, with two wins for Northwest and one for Washburn. Coach Ben McCollum said it does not surprise him to see Washburn up near the top of the standings.

"They play really hard; they compete at a high level, and they defend at a high level," McCollum said. "Washburn is generally a tough place to play, and hopefully, we can adjust and play better the second time around."

Washburn will cap off the Bearcats' two road games after a trip to Emporia State (8-14, 3-10). McCollum said he hopes the team can avoid the waiting until the second game to turn up the intensity.

"I think the understanding of how much it takes to be able to win on the road should help us quite a bit," McCollum said.



Freshman forward Ryan Hawkins finished with 13 points in the Bearcat's 76-43 win over Lincoln University Jan. 31.

DYLAN COLDENSMITH | NW MISSOURIAN

The Bearcats defeated Lindenwood 78-58 last time on the court, Feb. 3. The Lions managed to put in only 39.3 percent of their shots including 25 percent from long-range. Northwest, however, shot 59.6 percent from the floor and 42.1 from three.

Senior guard Justin Pitts leads the team in both points per game and assists. Pitts has lit up the scoreboards, putting up 21.2 points and 3.3 rebound in 18 minutes per game. He has played in every game

Hot shooting is nothing new for the Bearcats, who are averaging 52 percent from the field and 42 percent from long-range on the season. The defense has held their own by leading the NCAA Division II in points per game allowed with 59.

Freshman forward Ryan Hawkins has provided off the bench for the Bearcats averaging 5.5 points and 3.3 rebound in 18 minutes per game. He has played in every game

this season for the Bearcats.

Against the Lions, he put up his second straight double-figure game with 10 points and five rebounds. Hawkins recognizes the role the defense will play down the stretch.

"We've done a good job of playing throughout injuries," Hawkins said on Bearcat Update. "We're doing a very good job of being fluid in our roles. I think our defense is what will get us back up

to Sioux Falls, so that is what we will have to rely on."

With just six regular season games remaining, the tough road matchup could determine the Bearcats quest for a fifth straight MIAA regular season title.

Spoofhounds rise due to calculated shooting

JAMES HOWEY
Chief Reporter | @Howe_eyseesit

The Maryville boys basketball team seems to have found its stride as only two weeks remain until district play, thanks to re-evaluation of shots.

The Spoofhounds have won six-straight games including a Cameron Invitational Tournament title. The team's latest victory was a 64-42 road win against Smithville Feb. 2. Four players on Maryville finished with double figures in the game. Junior Eli Dowis said taking easier shots have made the offense more difficult to defend.

"Part of the reason we were



struggling was because we were starting to become too one-dimensional," Dowis said. "We put too much weight on outside shooting, so we started to get the ball inside and that balanced everything out."

Coach Matt Stoecklein said shot selection is something that he has stressed to his team, and has seen improvement.

"We took pretty darn good shots on Friday," Stoecklein said. "We've been trying to cut down on our turnovers and quick shots."

Dowis had 17 and sophomore Tate Oglesby had 14. Junior Tyler Houchin had 13 and Senior Jalen Sundell had 11 against the Warriors.

"Who are you going to cover up when we get going?" Stoeck-

lein said. "If you put your best defender on one person, then three or four other people might get sixteen or twelve points."

The Spoofhounds have made a combined 26 three-pointers in their previous three games. Stoecklein said the key has been taking better looking three-pointers.

"We've actually been trying to decrease how many three-pointers we take, and just take better three-pointers," Stoecklein said. "We've shown them that when it's an open shot, rather than a contested shot, your percentage goes up about 15 percent."

Stoecklein said his team's play has stepped up since winning the Cameron Invitational, and has put

together complete games.

"We've cut down on our turnovers, taking better shots, defending better and playing with better energy in all four quarters," Stoecklein said. "We've had some games where we've had some horrible third quarters or a horrible start to a game."

Dowis said he is pleased to see how the team is starting to jell at the right time in the season.

"We're finally starting to figure things out, and become the team we thought at the beginning of the year," Dowis said. "Heading into districts, it's nice to see our true identity start to show."

Maryville will travel to Benton Friday Feb. 9. The Cardinals

were the last team to defeat the Spoofhounds 50-47 at the Hound Pound Jan. 18. The loss was maybe the most disappointing one for the team this season.

"Very excited to be on the road and have a rematch with Benton, who we thought we should have beat the first time we played them," Stoecklein said. "They played great and took us out of everything we wanted to do, but this time, we want to do the things we want to do."

Softball prepared for season on the road

JOSH REXROAT
Missouri Reporter | @NWMSports

Bearcat softball will spend a long time on the road this season, having 80 percent of its games away from home.

The Northwest softball team opens its season Thursday, Feb. 8 when it travels to Bentonville, Arkansas. The Bearcats will play 10 games in a span of eight days down south.

"Even though it's five-plus hours, we're still excited to play," coach Ryan Anderson said. "We'll deal with being on the road a bit, as long as we get a chance to get out and play."

The Bearcats open their season against Arkansas Tech Thursday Feb. 8 for the first of two games on the day. The Bearcats opened their season last year against Arkansas Tech and lost 6-0.

After Arkansas Tech, the Bearcats will play MIAA rival Central Missouri.

The Mules won the conference regular season title last season. However, the Bearcats took down the Mules two times last year, defeating the Mules 11-0 in the regular season, as well as a conference tournament win, 11-2.

Central Missouri was a late add into the tournament after Henderson State dropped out of the tournament last season.

"Central Missouri is a team we



see once or twice a year, if not four times," Anderson said. "We're hoping that it is early enough in the year that by the time conference (games) are here, we'll be ready to go. By the time we see them, the teams are going to change so much."

The Bearcats finished last season 29-21 and 16-10 in the MIAA. That record earned the Bearcats a fifth-place finish in the conference last season and a conference tournament bid.

The Bearcats had a strong season on both sides of the ball last year. The team averaged .306 at the plate, as well as an on-base percentage of .364.

At the plate, the Bearcats were lead by freshman stand-out Kaitlyn Weis, who averaged .360 from the plate with 59 hits last year.

The Bearcats had little problems in the field with a .961 fielding percentage last season only producing 58 errors all season. The Bearcats had a fairly strong performance at the rubber, having a 3.10 era as a team.

The Northwest pitching crew will return their starting pitcher Taylor Blackford, who finished with a 13-7 record, averaging a 2.63 era and 53 strikeouts last season.

This season, the Bearcats are ranked third in the MIAA pre-season standings, including one first-place vote.

The Bearcats sit behind Missouri Western and defending con-

ference tournament champion Central Oklahoma in first, who got the rest of the first-place votes.

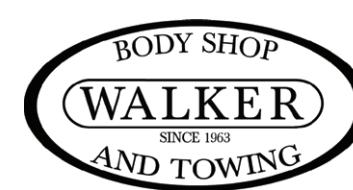
"I think we're prepared for it," graduate assistant Stephanie Bagwell said. "We know what we're getting into, and after we have been practicing and been cooped up inside for so many weeks, it's not hard because we are so excited to get out and play."

Due to the cold weather, the Bearcats have not been able to get onto the diamond except for one outdoor practice this season.

The Bearcats have been practicing in batting cages, and have been able to brace the cold and practice at Bearcat Stadium.

"It's not fun," Anderson said. "Outside yesterday (Feb. 6) was miserable, but we had to get some balls. We had to do it; didn't want to, but that's what happens."

The Bearcats will head off on their long road trip to start the season Thursday, Feb. 8. The Bearcats will have their first home game against the reigning MIAA tournament champions Central Oklahoma on March 23.



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Local stud signs with Northwest

JOSEPH ANDREWS

Assistant Sports Editors | @Joe_Andrews15



LaTroy Harper made national headlines for two incredible catches at the Edward Jones Dome in the 2015 Class 1 Show-Me Bowl.

A little more than two years later, the Penney High School senior eyes to transition the highlights to his upcoming Northwest pilgrimage.

"I want to be known as a legend," Harper said. "I want to leave a legacy. I know Northwest is a place that will help me grow and accelerate my game, as well as my overall character."

The 6-foot-1-inch 185 pound wide receiver inked his decision to become a Bearcat Feb. 7. Harper's signing marked the end of what he considers to be a stressful recruitment process.

The path was no different than any other athlete, sacrificing weekends to get his name out to college programs. Coaches eventually began to call.

At one point, 15 different coaches visited Harper in the same week.

"It was a lot to deal with and process," Harper said. "But it made making the decision about where I wanted to take my talents a lot more precise."

Harper's experience at Northwest attracted him to becoming a part of the program's culture.

Outside of his game day and official visit encounters, Harper mentioned coach Rich Wright was

*A. Marshall Photos 2016*

SUBMITTED | A. Marshall Photography

National Signing Day.

Northwest coach Rich Wright spoke highly of incoming wide receiver LaTroy Harper on National Signing Day.

a large part of his final decision.

"Coach Wright was a huge reason for me deciding to come to Northwest," Harper said. "My parents fell in love with the idea of him watching over me because he's such a great guy, and he genuinely cares for the kids and athletes at Northwest."

Harper began playing football in the third grade as something to pass time from his basketball career.

He never really took football seriously until his sophomore year of high school. That year, Penney advanced to the Class 1 Show-Me Bowl.

"I definitely remember the catch that everybody talks about," Harper said.

Jaran Richman floated a pass to Harper from five yards out. Harper extended his arms, pulling in a one handed touchdown over

two defenders.

Harper also caught a pass from Richman for an 80-yard touchdown in the game. Both found their way to national spotlight, including SportsCenter Top 10.

Though the Hornets fell in the game, Harper and the team returned to win the championship the following season.

"Having only lost a few seniors the year before, it wasn't

that hard to fine tune some of the younger into playing those positions," Harper said. "(It was) easily my favorite year of High School football."

Harper finished with over 1000 receiving yards in his sophomore and junior seasons. As a senior, he compiled 1,990 yards and 32 touchdowns on the ground.

"You watch him play, and he is a really good athlete," Wright said. "The more I have gotten to watch him... it's the competitive side of him. The better you are, the more he wants to dial it up."

Opponents in the Kansas City Interscholastic Conference (KCI) often complimented Harper for his talents.

"Everybody knows he's good, but he's freakish good," Lathrop football coach Chris Holt said. "I've seen Ezekiel Elliott play in high school, I've coached in the Suburban (Conference), I've seen some good kids. He can play anywhere."

Harper has also spent time competing in basketball, golf and track at Penney. His most striking stats were created on the hardwood.

He sits with over 1,700 all-time career points, and recently scored a career-high 46 points in one game.

Combine his allocates from the field and court together, it takes up two sheets of paper. Proof showed at Wright's introductory press conference.

"Take a look at this," Wright said. "It kind of gives you an idea of what this kid has done."

Bloodline runs deep for incoming quarterback

JOSEPH ANDREWS

Assistant Sports Editor | @Joe_Andrews15



"I was born with a football in my hand," Mike Hohensee said. "Football is in my blood. I've loved playing and being around the game since a young age."

Mike Hohensee remembers attending coaching meetings and practices alongside his dad growing up. He learned a few lessons along the way.

"He's taught me how to play the game mentally and physically," Mike Hohensee said. "He has also taught me how to lead and how to work hard."

After years of interacting with America's sport, Mike Hohensee hopes to follow his father's footsteps.

Mike Hohensee put pen to paper to take his talents to the 2018

Northwest signing class. He joins a group of four quarterbacks competing for the starter spot.

Whether Mike Hohensee's name gets called upon or not, coach Rich Wright spoke highly of his personality.

"He literally wants to come in the day after graduation and move to Maryville, so he can get into the team segments and seven-on-sevens. He doesn't want to wait to compete for the job; he wants the job now."

Wright added Mike Hohensee's background of the sport makes him even more magnificent.

"When you sit down and visit with Mike, he's so impressive," Wright said. "You walk away from and visit with him; it's like I'm not talking to a 17, 18-year-old high school kid. I'm talking to an individual who knows the game on a different level."

Outside of watching his dad coach, Mike Hohensee often resided on the gridiron growing up.

He was a part of four championships alongside teammates during his youth career.

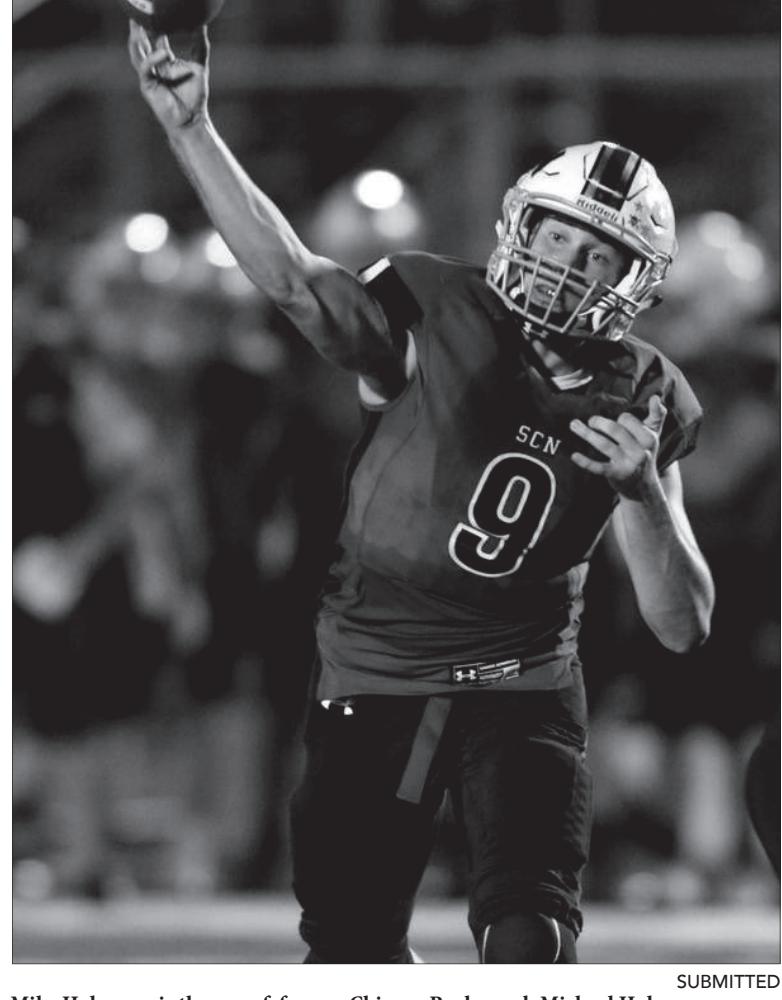
"I am still friends with them now," Mike Hohensee said. "We have been playing together since we were little, and the friends I made are some of my best friends."

Mike Hohensee found himself as the starter of each team he was a part of until his junior year at St. Charles North High School. He sat behind a two-year starter in that season, throwing just 14 passes.

Mike Hohensee entered the season hoping to find on-field consistency. Things paid off.

"I learned a lot during that time, and improved my game physically and mentally," Mike Hohensee said. "When senior year came around, I knew I was going to make the most of it."

Mike Hohensee threw for



SUBMITTED

Mike Hohensee is the son of former Chicago Rush coach Michael Hohensee.

2,500 yards and 24 touchdowns alongside a 63 percent completion percentage. He averaged 258 yards per game.

Along the way, Mike Hohensee was named to several honors, including First Team Illinois All-State, Upstate Eight Conference Offensive MVP and Chicago Bears High School Player of the Week (week 8).

"The recruiting hit me big time late in the season and after the sea-

Pitzenberger
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NW MEN'S BASKETBALL

MIAA STANDINGS

	Overall	MIAA
NORTHWEST.....	19-2	11-2
Washburn.....	17-5	11-2
Central Missouri.....	18-4	10-3
Missouri Southern.....	14-8	9-4
Central Oklahoma.....	15-7	8-5
Fort Hays State.....	13-9	6-7
Pittsburg State.....	13-9	6-7
Nebraska Kearney.....	10-12	6-7
Lindenwood.....	14-9	6-8
Lincoln.....	12-11	6-8
Southwest Baptist.....	11-11	5-8
Emporia State.....	8-14	3-10
Northeastern State.....	7-15	3-10
Missouri Western.....	4-16	2-11

NW WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

MIAA STANDINGS

	Overall	MIAA
Central Missouri.....	19-1	13-0
Nebraska Kearney.....	18-3	10-3
Pittsburg State.....	17-5	10-3
Fort Hays State.....	18-4	9-4
Central Oklahoma.....	17-5	8-5
Emporia State.....	13-7	8-5
Missouri Southern.....	10-11	7-6
Southwest Baptist.....	14-8	6-7
Washburn.....	14-8	6-7
Northeastern State.....	9-11	5-8
Missouri Western.....	11-11	4-9
Lindenwood.....	11-11	4-10
NORTHWEST.....	3-18	2-11
Lincoln.....	3-19	0-14

NW BASEBALL

MIAA STANDINGS

	Overall	MIAA
Fort Hays State.....	3-0	0-0
Southwest Baptist.....	3-1	0-0
Missouri Western.....	2-1	0-0
Nebraska Kearney.....	1-1	0-0
Washburn.....	2-2	0-0
Central Missouri.....	1-2	0-0
Lindenwood.....	1-2	0-0
Pittsburg State.....	1-2	0-0
Central Oklahoma.....	1-3	0-0
Missouri Southern.....	0-0	0-0
Northeastern State.....	0-0	0-0
NORTHWEST.....	0-3	0-0
Fort Hays State.....	0-4	0-0

NW SOFTBALL

MIAA STANDINGS

	Overall	MIAA
Washburn.....	5-1	0-0
Northeastern State.....	3-1	0-0
Central Oklahoma.....	4-2	0-0
Central Missouri.....	3-3	0-0
Missouri Southern.....	3-3	0-0
Pittsburg State.....	3-3	0-0
Emporia State.....	2-3	0-0
Fort Hays State.....	1-2	0-0
Southwest Baptist.....	1-3	0-0
Nebraska Kearney.....	1-4	0-0
Lindenwood.....	0-0	0-0
Missouri Western.....	0-0	0-0
NORTHWEST.....	0-0	0-0
Lincoln.....	0-4	0-0

Without Borders

Northwest inks four from Kansas

JAMES HOWEY

Chief Reporter | @How_eyseeit



been a high school coach since 2005 in Kansas. Wright said being the son of a coach also drew them to the future Bearcat.

"He is a coach's kid who understands the game, likes the grind and loves the weight room," Wright said. "We feel like he could potentially be a kid who comes in and plays early."

Being a coach's son also seemed to wear off on Zegunis because coaching was something that weighed heavily in his decision to join Northwest.

"Throughout the recruiting process, I looked at the coaches more than anything else," Zegunis said. "I felt like the coaches at Northwest were the type of people I wanted to surround myself with."

The Bearcats also added two players from Blue Valley high school, which is the same school that Zimmerman attended. Wide receiver Blake Brown was an All-State player and was named second team All-League in 2017.

Wright said he was impressed with the physical attributes of Brown, especially as a receiver.

"The thing I liked about him when I met him was how strong he was," Wright said. "He isn't one of those pretty boy wide receivers."

Brown amassed 37 receptions for 474 yards and 11 touchdowns this previous season. Wright said he sees Brown as a potential sleeper in this recruiting class.

"I'm really excited about this

We believe its a well coached area. We believe those kids who come from winning mentalities fit our culture"

- Northwest coach Rich Wright

"The thing sticks out about him is how nasty he can be and he is more ready made than some," Wright said. "He's got the size, he's got the dimensions, he's physical and he's in an intense player."

Zegunis' father, Mike, has

been a high school coach since 2005 in Kansas. Wright said being the son of a coach also drew them to the future Bearcat.

kid," Wright said. "I think he is a sleeper in our class, and somebody that can do some great things here at Northwest."

Brown said being part of a team loved by the community played a big factor in becoming a Bearcat.

"I love competing and winning football games. I love having a whole town cheering you on while you do that," Brown said. "I knew Northwest would give me the best chance to get a ring, and I knew I'd have a whole lot of fun doing it."

The other player coming from Blue Valley is kicker Jackson Likens. Likens was named All-State, All-League in Kansas and was also named to the All-USA Kansas team by USA Today. Wright said the kickers competitive mentality encouraged him when they met.

"I liked his competitive nature," Wright said. "He understands where our kicking situation is, and he relished the opportunity to come in and try to take a job."

Another wide receiver being added to Northwest is Blue Valley North's Nijel Roberts. Roberts had 69 receptions for 1085 yards and 13 touchdowns on the season for a team that captured the 6A Kansas State Championship this previous year. He was also an All-State player this season.

Wright said Roberts didn't emerge until his senior season, which allowed Northwest to sneak in and get him.

"I just think he slipped through the cracks a little bit," Wright said. "I think people didn't have him on the radar as a junior, but I'm sure glad we found him."

Roberts simply said the whole atmosphere of Maryville made him feel right at home.

"I find it very intriguing that the whole town comes out to watch the football games, and they all have their rituals," Roberts said. "I come from a small town in Mississippi, and Maryville reflects everything I love about home."



SUBMITTED
Blue Valley High School senior Blake Brown (11) will join Northwest as a receiver.



SUBMITTED
Blue Valley North senior Nijel Roberts is heading to Northwest as a wide receiver.

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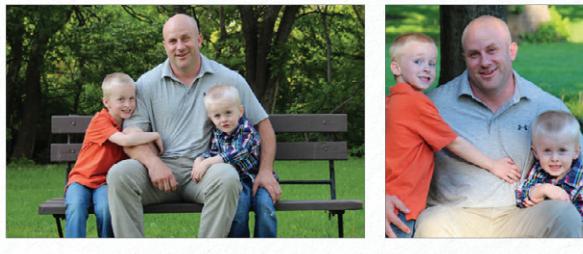
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COMMITTED



MADI NOLTE | NW MISSOURIAN

Northwest announced the signings of 38 student athletes Feb. 7. The list includes names such as (left to right) LaTroy Harper, Tre Wheaton, Javon Williams, Tyler Miller and Grant Matthies.

ALL-STATE ATHLETES

30

ALL-CONFERENCE ATHLETES

24

Midwest talent key for football

ISAIAH SWANN
Sports Editor | @iswannny10

The Midwest continues to be the stomping ground for some of coach Rich Wright's elite.

Although Northwest football has pulled athletes from eight different states, 30 of the 38 (79 percent) incoming recruits on National Signing Day are not too far from their own backyard.

"We didn't go to Florida until we had exhausted every option that we could in the Midwest, and that was my doing," Wright said. "It was a decision I made. I think our staff did a good job of bringing us back to kids who fit Northwest Missouri State."

Nebraska and Missouri alone make up 21 of the 30 recruits in the Midwest. While other colleges may be adding some late walk-on students, Northwest treats those commits and the scholarship students just the same.

"For us, we've gotten to the point where we do it a little bit different," Wright said. "We treat our walk-ons like our scholarship players."

Liberty's star running back Robert Rawie, along with Hamilton and local celebrity LaTroy Harper, combined for two of the more highlighted names on the signing day list.

Other names included were a duo from eight-man school Worth County in offensive lineman De-

van Jackson and defensive lineman Drake Kinsella.

Out of Staley High School, a commit from North Kansas City, Tyler Miller, described his official visit to Northwest as an experience he will never forget.

"What amazed me was the amount of effort the coaching staff put into trying to impress

when he had his official visit.

"My visit was unbelievable," Matthies said. "What drew me to Northwest was how open and welcoming the coaching staff was everytime I was there and the family and winning atmosphere. It is nothing like I've ever experienced at that level."

Matthies considered walking on at University of Iowa or University of Nebraska while also receiving offers from Wayne State and Minnesota State.

When Wright was asked early in the press conference as to how the University of Nebraska's new hire at head coach may have affected his recruiting, Wright had one thing to say.

"Scott Frost made me mad," Wright said with a smile.

Two other names that stood out on the signing day list was 6-foot-5-inch, 340 pound AJ Sieh, as well Blue Springs wide receiver Tre Wheaton.

While Sieh's body frame is impressive, Wright said that Wheaton was one of his most surprising gets.

"I don't know how we got this kid," Wright said. "I think this kid has fantastic talent. He's a difference maker. We stole two wide receivers this year, and this is one of them."

Wheaton received first team all-conference honors as well as first-team district awards.

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY ATHLETES

10

MVP HONORS

4

Bearcat recruiting numbers by state

1

5

3

6

4

15

1